

<b>CHAPTER 20 – OVERHEAD AND TEAMS.....</b>	<b>41</b>
National Incident Management System (NIMS) Positions .....	41
Overhead Mobilization and Demobilization .....	41
Trainees .....	41
Overhead Name Requests .....	42
Private Contractors and ADs/EFFs.....	43
Supplemental Fire Department Resources .....	43
Rental Vehicles.....	43
Cell Phones, Laptops and Miscellaneous Equipment .....	43
Demobilization Guidelines and Responsibilities.....	43
Emergency Releases.....	44
Interagency Wildland Fire Modules .....	44
Smokejumpers.....	45
Helicopter Module.....	45
Helicopter Rappellers .....	45
Non-Standard Overhead Groups .....	46
Rapid Extraction Module Support (REMS) .....	46
Communications Coordinator (COMC) .....	47
Flight Manager.....	48
Incident Meteorologist (IMET).....	48
Cache Support Positions .....	48
National Incident Management Teams.....	48
Interagency Incident Management Teams (IMTs).....	49
NIMO Incident Management Team Type of Assignments.....	51
National Area Command Teams .....	51
Incident Support Teams.....	51
National Interagency Buying Teams (BUYT) .....	51
Review, Audit, Process Team (RAP) .....	52
Burned Area Emergency Response Team (BAER).....	52
Critical Incident Stress Management Teams (CISM) – Peer Support.....	52
National Fire Prevention and Education Teams (NFPET).....	54
Wildland Fire and Aviation Safety Teams (FAST).....	54
Aviation Safety Assistance Team (ASAT) .....	55
Serious Accident Investigation Teams (SAIT) .....	55
Specialized Personnel .....	55
Air Resource Advisor .....	55
Fallers and Faller Modules .....	55
Agency Fallers and Faller Modules .....	55
Competed Agreement Fallers and Faller Modules .....	55
Fireline Explosives and Hazard Tree Blasting .....	56
National Federation of Federal Employees (NFFE) Union Representative – FS Incidents ....	57
Northern Rockies Human Resource Specialist (HRSP).....	57
Northern Rockies Incident Medical Specialist Personnel .....	57
Fireline qualified AEMF/EMPF/EMTF Competed Agreements .....	58
Suppression Modules.....	58
WFDSS Support Resources .....	59

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## CHAPTER 20 – OVERHEAD AND TEAMS

### NATIONAL INCIDENT MANAGEMENT SYSTEM (NIMS) POSITIONS

*Reference the National Interagency Mobilization Guide.*

The Incident Qualifications and Certification System (IQCS) is a federal information management system that tracks training and certifications for wildland firefighters. *A complete list of all NWCG recognized Position Codes is referenced at the IQCS website, <https://iqcsweb.nwcg.gov/>.*

The Incident Qualifications System (IQS) is the state system of record for training and certifications for wildland firefighters. *Reference <http://dfpcigs.state.co.us/IQS/Login.aspx>.*

### OVERHEAD MOBILIZATION AND DEMOBILIZATION

Resource mobilization activities will be conducted with a high regard for safety and cost effectiveness. All personnel will carry photo identification cards while on assignment which match information recorded in the IROC system to facilitate transportation arrangements when made via commercial air carriers.

#### Trainees

The NRGAs have an active Priority Trainee Program managed by the Geographic Area Training Representative (GATR) and the NRCC. Priority Trainees will take precedence over other trainees. These trainees are supported by their respective Agencies in the Northern Rockies efforts for Successional Planning.

When hosting an incident local centers may fill trainee orders with any trainees from the hosting unit or any cooperating agency within the dispatch zone. They may also reach out to the neighboring centers for trainees as defined by the Northern Rockies Mobilization Guide as closest forces.

There may be occasions for the hosting agency to order trainees to meet specific agency objectives (example: MT DNRC unit ordering MT DNRC resources from non-neighboring dispatch centers; IDS ordering IDS resources from the Great Basin; or the BIA/NPS ordering trainees from other regions or any hard dollar orders). These should be ordered as name requests with the “Host Agency Only” inclusion for Federal resource’s and “State Only” for state resources.

Resource orders received from the dispatch centers indicating trainee accepted or trainee required will be processed at NRCC using the following guidelines:

1. NRCC will check the NR Priority Trainee List and match against availability for state, GACC, and national status.
  - a. Place the order to the first available priority trainee on the list. Document “Please fill with priority trainee XXXX.” Local centers UTF if individual is not available and update status or hide qualifications as appropriate. Continue through the priority trainee list until the request has been filled or the list exhausted.

- b. If no priority trainees are showing available in the GACC contact the Northern Rockies GATR and advise them of the request. The GATR will check for priority trainee availability from other GACCs. The GATR will provide fill information for the order, the best practice is to make the order a name request and document priority trainee's current dispatch center i.e. (ID-BDC) in special needs. If unable to make a name request the trainee information should be entered in documentation and NICC advised.
  - c. If the GATR cannot locate a priority trainee, the following documentation will be added: **"The Northern Rockies GATR has reviewed the national priority trainee list and contacted other GATRs no priority trainees are available at this time"**.
  - d. If NRCC cannot contact GATR or GATR Rep within 30 minutes to find PTs from other GACCs, NRCC will document **"Unable to contact NR GATR"** and move on to 2 and/or 3.
2. Place the order to other available trainees in GACC using standard dispatch procedures.
  3. If unable to fill the request via one of the previous steps place the request to NICC to fill using the standard dispatch procedures.

### **In-Area trainee assignments with NR IMTs**

Other than regular GAC PTs and IMT Trainees already assigned to the IMT roster NRCC will fill any add-on trainee roster positions in the following order:

1. NR Priority Trainees.
2. NRGAs trainees.
3. Contact GATR or GATR Rep for National Priority Trainees.
4. Send to NICC when # 1, 2, 3 do not apply.

### **Out-of-Area trainee assignments**

Trainee orders received from NICC that are not name requests will be processed using the following guidelines:

1. NRCC will check the NR Priority Trainee List for trainees shown available national and place to the first trainee shown as available on the list following the process outlined in 1.a above.
2. If no priority trainee shows as available, NRCC will fill using the standard dispatch protocols.

When a sending unit is requesting to send a trainee along with a qualified resource for a "pairing", this request will need to be negotiated with the incident dispatch center and processed using the normal ordering channels. The incident host dispatch center needs to send a name request for the trainee and document in special needs why they are being requested. An overhead support request WILL NOT be created against a parent request that is also an overhead request, other than for local area use.

### **Overhead Name Requests**

*Reference the National Interagency Mobilization Guide.*

Name Requests will be accepted for highly specialized positions or to meet specific agency objectives. Prior to placing the request, the ordering unit must confirm with the filling

organization that the resource is available for this assignment. All name requests must be identified using the “Name Request” block in IROC and include the individuals current dispatch location along with justification documented in the special needs block of the request. Name requests for ADs may be denied if there are agency personnel available with the same qualification.

Name requests will be accepted by NRCC for incidents within the area after a request has already been shopped nationally and was returned UTF. However, NICC will not accept the same request number twice, so a new request number will be required if the name request is for an out of area resource.

Name requests charged to appropriated funds (hard dollars) will be processed during normal business hours and must include a justification in the special needs block of the request.

### **Private Contractors and ADs/EFFs**

Private Contractors and ADs /EFFs are eligible to fill a resource request (unless “EFF/AD Exclusion” or if any of the “Inclusions” are checked on the resource order when agency and cooperator resources are not available to fill the request within the specified parameters.

### **Supplemental Fire Department Resources**

*Reference the National Interagency Mobilization Guide.*

### **Rental Vehicles**

Rental Vehicles are not authorized for personnel filling requests unless specifically authorized by the requesting unit and documented on the resource order.

### **Cell Phones, Laptops and Miscellaneous Equipment**

*Reference the Standards for Interagency Incident Business Management Handbook.*

The requesting unit can identify and document on the resource order that electronic devices such as cell phones, computer laptops, GPS units, etc. are required to accompany an ordered resource. This authorization on the resource order allows for replacements of government equipment if lost, damaged, or stolen, but does not allow for other reimbursement, such as usage fees. The home unit or hiring official (in the case of ADs/EFFs) will assist the resource with obtaining government-owned equipment prior to dispatch if required. If the host or hiring unit is unable to provide government owned-equipment, the resource’s home dispatch center should contact the incident prior to mobilization so that the incident may secure this equipment for the resource’s arrival, as all cell phones and satellite phones should be procured through the incident or incident host agency. Usage charges of personal or home unit cell phones will not be reimbursed.

### **Demobilization Guidelines and Responsibilities**

*Reference Chapter 10 Northern Rockies Interagency Mobilization Guide.*

## Emergency Releases

When an emergency occurs, a family member or friend is to contact the home dispatch unit and initiate an emergency message/release form. The home dispatch unit will follow the chain of command to relay the message to NRCC. NRCC will deliver the message through standard dispatch channels and through an IARR, if available. NRCC will notify the home dispatch unit when the message has been relayed. All documentation of emergency releases must pass through NRCC. Attach a copy of the Emergency Release to the resources in IROC.

## INTERAGENCY WILDLAND FIRE MODULES

*Reference the National Interagency Mobilization Guide.*

Interagency Wildland Fire Modules (WFMs) are highly skilled and versatile fire personnel with a primary commitment to maintain fire's role as a natural ecological process. They provide technical and ecological based expertise in the areas of long-term planning, ignitions, holding, suppression, prescribed fire preparation and implementation support, hazard fuels reduction, and fire effects monitoring.

Orders for WFMs will be placed through established ordering channels in IROC using an Overhead Group Request; Module, Wildland Fire, Type 1 (WFM1) or Type 2 (WFM2) configured according to PMS 430 Interagency Standards for Wildfire Module Operations.

For minimum module standards for national mobilization, see Interagency Standards for Fire and Aviation Operations, Chapter 13, Firefighter Training and Qualifications, Wildland Fire Modules at: <https://www.nifc.gov/PUBLICATIONS/redbook/2020/Chapter13.pdf>.

Or PMS – 430 Interagency Standards for Wildland Fire Module Operations – Chapter 7 at: <https://www.nwcg.gov/publications/430>

A standard module configuration is comprised of one (1) module leader plus six (6) to nine (9) module crewmembers. If requested, WFMs can be configured and mobilized with less than the standard WFM configuration, but only after agreement between the requesting and sending units. Any negotiated configurations must be identified within the original request.

The NRGAs has 2 certified Type 1 WFMs and 1 certified Type 2 WFM. Additionally, there are 2 Modules in training to become Type 2 certified.

WILDLAND FIRE MODULE	TYPE	UNIT	DISP
Lewis & Clark	WFM1	MT-HLF	MT-GDC
Selway	WFM1	ID-NCF	ID-GVC
St. Joe	WFM2	ID-IPF	ID-CDC
Kanisku	WFM2 (T)	ID-IPF	ID-CDC
Spotted Bear	WFM2 (T)	MT-FNF	MT-KIC

Table 12: NR Wildland Fire Modules

### Wildland Fire Module Mobilization and Demobilization

All mobilizations and demobilizations will be done through established dispatch channels. When the module leader receives a request, they will then contact the ordering unit to discuss mobilization logistics, specific support equipment required, travel options, delivery point, and check-in requirements. When releasing a Wildland Fire Module, follow established dispatch procedures.

### SMOKEJUMPERS

*Reference the National Interagency Mobilization Guide and Chapter 50 of this Guide.*

#### Smokejumper Numbers

NRGA smokejumpers are located at three bases:

Grangeville	28 smokejumpers	Ops Contact: 208-983-9588
West Yellowstone	30 smokejumpers	Ops Contact: 406-646-7691
Missoula	70 smokejumpers	Ops Contact: 406-329-4896

#### Smokejumper Gear, Weights, and Volume

*Reference the National Interagency Mobilization Guide.*

#### Pilots – Lead plane, Aerial Supervision Module and Smokejumper

*Reference the National Interagency Mobilization Guide.*

#### Preposition / Spike Base Orders

All preposition and spike base orders will be coordinated through NRCC.

### HELICOPTER MODULE

*Reference the National Interagency Mobilization Guide.*

When Type 1 and Type 2 Call When Needed (CWN) helicopters are ordered in the NRGA they will first report to a designated point for inspection and briefing with the assigned helicopter manager. No CWN helicopter will be used on an incident prior to marrying up with its manager at a site other than the incident air base.

If the intended use for the helicopter is initial attack, the Helicopter Manager request must specify a fitness level of arduous. When initiating the request, specify any other manager or crew qualification requirements (ICT4, etc.) in the resource request special needs block. Similarly, if a helicopter module is required to report with any module specific equipment (radios, flight helmets, etc.) post these requirements in the special needs block.

### HELICOPTER RAPPELLERS

*Reference the National Interagency Mobilization Guide.*

#### Rappeller Numbers

NRGA rappellers are located at two bases:

Libby	16 rappellers	Contact: 406-283-7865
Gallatin	18 rappellers	Contact: 406-763-4874

## **Rappeller and Helicopter Manager Gear, Weights, and Volume**

*Reference the National Interagency Mobilization Guide.*

### **NON-STANDARD OVERHEAD GROUPS**

*Reference the National Interagency Mobilization Guide.*

The generic overhead catalog items “Module, Fuels” or “Squad” or “Module, Suppression” will be used to order non-standard overhead groups. All requests for these catalog items will be placed through established ordering channels using an Overhead Group Request. Coordination between requesting and sending units must occur.

The NRCG adopted the BLM Suppression Module definitions with small adaptations, *reference the Suppression Modules section under Specialized Personnel later in this chapter for further guidance.*

### **Rapid Extraction Module Support (REMS)**

Rapid Extraction Module Support (REMS) presents an option to extract firefighters suffering from an injury or illness while conducting fire suppression in terrain or conditions not conducive to standard extraction methods. REMS is an extraction team that provides technical expertise in the use of Low Angle Rescue Operations (LARRO), High Angle Rope Rescue Operations (HARRO), and advanced terrain techniques to transport a patient to either a vehicle or aircraft for transport to an appropriate medical facility or staging area to meet medical assistance.

The NRCG has a mix of Federal, State, Tribal and Local Cooperators with a variety of extraction capabilities. REMS would be desirable when conditions do not allow aviation resources the ability to fly safely, and when terrain is too steep or challenging to use current conventional methods of extraction.

REMS will be created in IROC using an Overhead Group with the qualification Module, Rapid Extraction Support (GACC ONLY), and will use the following naming convention: Groups, Module - Rapid Extraction Support (GACC ONLY) – Unit – Resource Name.

Orders for REMS will be placed through established ordering channels in IROC using an Overhead Group Request; Module, Rapid Extraction Support (GACC ONLY).

Minimum REMS configuration will consist of:

- Four Personnel
  - One NWCG FFT1 qualified individual, all others NWCG FFT2 qualified (arduous physical fitness).
  - All trained in Low Angle Rope Rescue Operations.
- Two trained in High Angle Rope Rescue Operations.
- A four-wheel drive vehicle capable of carrying the entire module and equipment.
- May be ordered with UTV.
- All necessary extraction equipment is *referenced in the Northern Rockies Supplements to the NWCG Standards for Interagency Incident Business Management, Chapters 20 & 50,*



available at: [https://gacc.nifc.gov/nrcc/nrcg/committees/business\\_committee.htm](https://gacc.nifc.gov/nrcc/nrcg/committees/business_committee.htm).

### **Local Government REMS**

Legal authority and responsibility for search-and-rescue operations varies jurisdictionally, Incident management teams should first determine with the incident-hosting agency what authorities exist for fire incident extractions versus search-and-rescues before seeking out local government capabilities to fulfill REMS needs. Local government capabilities could include local fire, law enforcement, or search and rescue organizations. County search & rescue organizations frequently train for LARRO/HARRO and should be the first consideration. IMT Liaisons will need to gather the County's capability from the County Sheriff at the IMT in-briefing or as soon as possible. Use of local government may have varying agreement requirements prior to hiring. Coordination with the sheriff to assure that the county has resources on hand in a non-pay "on call" status should an IMT need them ready for rapid response may present the best option in lieu of "hiring".

### **Contract REMS**

All commercial REMS will need to be contracted through incident only agreement processes (EERA). The defined minimum REMS specification will allow for incident only contracts within the NRGAs. Contract REMS would be desirable only if local government could not provide.

*Reference the REMS letter of direction on the NRCG website for additional information:*  
<https://gacc.nifc.gov/nrcc/nrcg/>.

## **COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR (COMC)**

*Reference the National Interagency Mobilization Guide.*

The effective management of radio systems, kits and frequencies assigned to incidents is a critical concern. To facilitate coordination between incidents, units and agencies in the NRGAs, the following responsibilities are assigned.

### **The Northern Rockies Coordination Center will:**

- Review all orders for all radio systems/kits and frequencies assigned within the NRGAs.
- Coordinate with the National Interagency Incident Communications Division (NIICD) Communications Duty Officer (CDO) on requests for radio components. Process all radio system orders on IROC NFES supply orders through the NIICD CDO via the NICC.
- Notify the NIICD CDO and agency telecommunications/frequency managers of any problems relating to radio frequency management.
- Activate a COMC position at NRCC when the management of radio systems and frequencies involves complex and multiple incidents.
- Request VHF-FM, VHF-AM and UHF frequencies as required for incidents and relay this information to the NIICD CDO through the resource order process. When one is assigned, resource orders for radios and frequencies will be coordinated with the COMC.
- Facilitate the return of radio equipment to NIICD.

**Northern Rockies COMC Responsibilities:**

- Any time two or more incident management teams are committed in the area, the NIICD CDO and NRCC coordinator will evaluate the workload and consider ordering a communications coordinator through NICC. When in place, the communications coordinator will perform the following functions:
  - Coordinate with the NIICD CDO on requests for radio equipment to ensure radio frequency separation where incidents are in close proximity to each other.
  - Maintain a master list of radios and frequencies assigned to the NRGA and relay this information to the NRCC coordinator.
  - Notify the following personnel of changes in radio system and frequency status:
    - Agency telecommunications/frequency coordinators
    - NIICD CDO
    - Dispatch centers
    - IMT COML/COMT

**Dispatch Centers will:**

- Notify the assigned COMC and/or agency telecommunications managers of any problems concerning radio frequency management.
- Keep local incident communications unit leaders, incident commanders, and locally assigned electronics technicians informed of radio frequency management issues.
- Advise all pilots assigned to incidents of agency and interagency aviation radio communications protocols.

**Incidents will:**

- The logistics section/communication units will be responsible for submitting frequency & tone lists to the NIICD CDO or the Northern Rockies COMC (when activated) prior to the beginning of each shift.
- Use only those NIICD frequencies assigned by the incident communications unit leader and/or local frequency management personnel.
- Notify the NIICD CDO or Northern Rockies COMC (when activated) and/or supporting zone/unit dispatch center of any problems concerning radio frequency management.
- Expedite the return of all cache radio equipment excess to the incident's needs.

**FLIGHT MANAGER**

*Reference the National Interagency Mobilization Guide.*

**INCIDENT METEOROLOGIST (IMET)**

*Reference the National Interagency Mobilization Guide.*

**CACHE SUPPORT POSITIONS**

*Reference the National Interagency Mobilization Guide.*

**NATIONAL INCIDENT MANAGEMENT TEAMS**

*Reference the National Interagency Mobilization Guide.*

### Interagency Incident Management Teams (IMTs)

The Northern Rockies supports two Type 1 IMTs, four Type 2 IMTs, and one Wildland Fire Management Team (WFMT). General management of teams falls under the Northern Rockies Coordinating Group (NRCG) and Incident Commander Committee. Teams may present problems, concerns, or other issues to the committee chairperson through the team coordinator or the center manager at NRCC. *Reference the Northern Rockies IMT Standard Operating Guide for additional information:*

<https://gacc.nifc.gov/nrcc/dispatch/overhead/IMTplan.pdf>.

The WFMT specializes in implementing agency delegations that focus on primarily managing fire on the landscape for resource objectives. The WFMTs primary commitment is to maintain fire's role as a natural ecological process in wildland fire management incident operations and management of federal lands.

Northern Rockies IMTs:

Team Number	Type	Incident Commander Name
NR Team 1	T1	Mike Goicoechea
NR Team 2	T1	Doug Turman
NR Team 3	T2	Mike Almas
NR Team 4	T2	Rick Connell
NR Team 5	WFMT	Joe Sampson
NR Team 6	T2	Bob Fry
NR Team 7	T2	John Thompson

Table 13: Northern Rockies IMTs

Type 1 and Type 2 IMTs may be ordered in a long or short team configuration. The WFMT will initially be configured per the short team configuration and include Strategic Operational Planner and Long-Term Analyst positions for the development and implementations of long-term plans. Team configuration can be found at the following link:

[https://www.nifc.gov/nicc/logistics/teams/imt\\_configuration.pdf](https://www.nifc.gov/nicc/logistics/teams/imt_configuration.pdf) and the Northern Rockies IMT Standard Operating Guide.

Unless specifically requested as a short team, Northern Rockies T1 and T2 IMTs are dispatched in a long team configuration. Teams ordered by NICC for use out of Northern Rockies geographic area may be sent in either a long or short team configuration. The National Multi-Agency Coordinating (NMAC) Group will determine priorities and approve interagency team assignments for non-wildland fire incidents.

Northern Rockies Interagency IMTs are mobilized by placing a request through established ordering channels in IROC to the NRCC. Orders for Type 1 and Type 2 IMTs will be ordered by type and configuration (long or short) using an Overhead Group Request. The WFMT will be ordered as an Overhead Group Request; Team, Wildland Fire Management. All orders will be followed up with a telephone call to NRCC. NRCC will in turn notify the IC, work with the IC/PSC for updated roster members and notify all members' associated dispatch centers once the roster requests are ready to be placed.

The travel for the team's parent order should reflect the travel of the IC or Deputy IC.

Northern Rockies Area and national IMT rotations are available at:

<https://gacc.nifc.gov/nrcc/dispatch/overhead/overhead.htm>.

### **Incident Management Team (IMT) Demobilization**

*Reference the Interagency Standards for Fire and Fire Aviation Operations.*

The date and time for transition between the current incident management team and their replacement must be approved by the agency administrator or a designated representative. Incoming team members should be assigned and start working with current team members at a predetermined time.

The following criteria will be evaluated before releasing a team:

- The fire must be controlled or a replacement team or local organization in command.
- All line crews that are not needed for patrol and mop-up should be released.
- Base fire camps are shut down, reduced, or in the process.
- The Planning Section Chief has prepared a narrative fire report and individual fire report as part of final fire package.
- The Finance Section Chief should have all known finance problems resolved and has contacted local budget and financial personnel.
- Fire rehab work has been completed to fire unit satisfaction.
- Overhead ratings are completed and submitted to the hosting agency as part of final fire package.
- The return of unneeded cache items is completed, and all other items have been accounted for.

Finance and Logistics Section Chiefs may be required to stay longer or return to the local unit to resolve problems. The IMT should have an internal team debriefing session prior to meeting with the agency administrator. Agency administrators and other designated representatives should debrief national teams and prepare an evaluation as soon as possible after release and before departure.

Should a team be assigned to an incident and the above, or portions of the above, criteria cannot be met due to emergency conditions or other circumstances, the incident commander and staff will work with members of the hosting agency to provide for an organized and effective transition.

### **Incident Dispatch Responsibilities:**

- Assist the incident management team in demobilization planning.
- Assure that area priorities for release are met.
- Keep NRCC (and responsible dispatch centers) informed of demobilization plans, progress, and any changes.
- Arrange staging and transportation as necessary.

- Arrange to have representatives at departure/arrival points to keep dispatch informed of problems and progress.
- Notify NRCC (and responsible dispatch centers) when personnel depart incident for home unit.
- If large transports are departing from an airport in your area, have personnel available to weigh and manifest resources two hours before the flight departs.
- Overhead releases will be scheduled to meet requirements established by the IMT. Strive to consolidate overhead in groups with common destinations.

**NRCC Responsibilities:**

- Set area priorities for demobilization of resources and notify fire units.
- Relay demobilization plans to NICC and/or home units.
- Keep NICC and/or home units currently informed of demobilization process.
- Arrange for transportation as necessary.

**Home Unit Dispatch Responsibilities:**

- Arrange for 24-hour communications, if necessary.
- Schedule transportation as required.
- Arrange to have representatives at departure/arrival points to keep the dispatcher informed of progress.
- Notify NRCC or appropriate dispatch center when personnel traveling by air have not arrived home within 30 minutes of scheduled arrival time.

**NIMO Incident Management Team Type of Assignments**

*Reference the National Interagency Mobilization Guide.*

**National Area Command Teams**

*Reference the National Interagency Mobilization Guide.*

**INCIDENT SUPPORT TEAMS**

*Reference the National Interagency Mobilization Guide.*

**National Interagency Buying Teams (BUYT)**

*Reference the National Interagency Mobilization Guide.*

The Northern Rockies supports one National Buying Team. A BUYT is ordered by placing an Overhead Group Request via IROC to NRCC for a “Team, Buying”. A BUYT will include a team leader and a sufficient number of team members (up to six) to support procurement for the incident.

For procurement assistance at the local unit, the NRCG Business Committee has identified incident business coordinators for each of their respective agencies:

Agency	Contact	Office/Location	Phone Numbers(S)
USFS	Tracey Nimlos	Northern Region Missoula, MT	406-329-3331 406-370-7152 (cell)
BIA	Regina Hoffmann	Northwest Region Portland, OR	503-231-6800 503-679-5725 (Cell)
BIA	Amanda Boatright	Rocky Mountain Region Billings, MT	406-247-7949 406-696-5069 (Cell)
BLM	Sarah J. Lee	Montana / Dakotas State Office Billings, MT	406-896-2915 208-315-2687 (cell)
NPS	Shannon Deane	Glacier National Park West Glacier, MT	
MT DNRC	Wanemah Hulett (Westside IBS)	Forestry Division Office Missoula, MT	406-542-4230 406-210-2461 (cell)
	Becky Shepard (Eastside IBS)	Forestry Division Office Lewistown, MT	406-535-1902
IDL	Wendy Walter	Coeur d'Alene, ID	208-666-8648 208-755-2924 (Cell)

Table 14: Agency Incident Business Coordinators

**BUYT Configuration***Reference the National Interagency Mobilization Guide.***BUYTs Rotation Process***Reference the National Interagency Mobilization Guide.***Review, Audit, Process Team (RAP)***Reference the National Interagency Mobilization Guide.***Burned Area Emergency Response Team (BAER)***Reference the National Interagency Mobilization Guide.***Critical Incident Stress Management Teams (CISM) – Peer Support**

A critical incident is an event unusually stressful to an individual which may cause either an immediate or delayed emotional reaction that surpasses the individual's available coping mechanisms.

CISM teams may be ordered through normal dispatch channels for fire incidents involving any of the Northern Rockies wildland fire agencies. Contact respective agency officials for assignment procedures to be used during non-fire incidents.

Critical Incidents that may signal the need for critical incident stress debriefing include:

Single incident stress events, such as:

- Line of Duty death of a co-worker
- Personal traumatic injury or near miss

- Family member severe illness or death
- Aviation accident
- Shelter deployment
- Motor vehicle accident
- Disaster recovery work
- Co-worker critical injury or death
- Incidents perceived as threatening (both physically and psychologically)
- Suicide (Fire & Non-Fire)

Cumulative stress events, such as:

- Scenes of destruction - immersion in disaster
- Concerns of evacuees
- Exposure to environmental hazards and disease
- Safety compromised in initial chaos
- Lack of resources, changes in assignment

### When a Critical Incident Occurs

CISM teams may be ordered through NRCC using established ordering channels in IROC using an Overhead Group Request; Team, Critical Incident Stress. A team will normally consist of one to four individuals including a contractor provided clinician and two to three agency-provided peer group members. Designation of an agency liaison from the requesting unit may also be required.

The on-duty NRCC coordinator is authorized to dispatch CISM teams within the NRG. **The following procedures will be completed when the resource request is in support of wildland fire operations or another emergency incident in which the response is provided through the dispatch centers:**

- The on-duty NRCC coordinator will contact the peer team coordinator (listed in table below) who will confirm the name and phone number of the peer team leader. This information will be added to the documentation section of the resource order for the CISM team.

Peer Team Coordinator	Office	Cell
David Maclay-Schulte	406-829-6801	406-360-6156
Tony Maillet	406-821-2155	406-370-6080

Table 15: Peer Group Coordinators

- The on-duty NRCC coordinator will inform the peer team coordinator of the contact on the incident or fire, which should be on the resource order from the IMT or local dispatch center.
- The peer team coordinator will call one of the EAP Clinicians on the peer team list directly, to see if that clinician is available for an assignment.
- Peer team coordinator will contact the EAP with a direct request for the CISM peer team clinician. **EAP Contact** - 24/7 EAP Contact (800) 869-0276

- Peer team coordinator will contact the NRCC with peer team member names for the assignment.
- The on-duty NRCC coordinator or desk dispatcher will fill the IROC order for the CISM team with the clinician and peer team members as rostered subordinate requests. NRCC will fill the request for the clinician with the fill by agreement feature of IROC. Individual subordinate requests for peer team members will be placed to the individual's current dispatch center. An electronic copy of the filled CISM team resource order (recommend PDF file format) will be emailed to the peer team coordinator (contact team coordinator taking the request for email address).

**Note: If a request is received for a CISM team in support of an USFS non-wildfire event, contact the peer team coordinator.**

For non-wildfire events for other agencies, contact your respective agency officials for agency protocol.

Other items to consider when mobilizing a Critical Incident Stress Management Peer Team

- Work with the ordering dispatch center to request the CISM team as soon as the need is recognized. In most cases it is desirable to debrief the affected crew within 72 hours after the incident. Specific arrangements regarding timing of the debriefing will be discussed with peer team coordinator.
- Assess who may need debriefing (i.e. fire responders, fellow workers, others attached to the critical incident, IMTs, etc.). You may wish to discuss additional debriefing needs with the CISM team when they arrive.
- When a critical incident occurs, there is often an impact on the Incident Management Team and dispatch. They may also need to be debriefed by the CISM team. The IMT's Human Resource Specialist (HRSP) will act as the liaison for the IC in requesting CISM resources and coordinating all CISM needs for the incident.
- Keep crew and others informed of the general status of the injured. If there is no information, tell them that.
- The CISM team should, whenever possible, precede the investigation team.
- The CISM team should be consulted prior to returning the crew involved in the critical incident to work or releasing them to their home units.
- Follow-up debriefing(s) may be required once crews or individuals return to home units.

### **National Fire Prevention and Education Teams (NFPET)**

*Reference the National Interagency Mobilization Guide and National Fire Prevention Education Team Plan at: [https://gacc.nifc.gov/nrcc/dispatch/overhead/2020\\_NFPET\\_ProgramPlan-Final.pdf](https://gacc.nifc.gov/nrcc/dispatch/overhead/2020_NFPET_ProgramPlan-Final.pdf)*

For information about Wildland Fire Prevention and Education teams in the NRGAs, contact: Rita Chandler, USFS, R01 Fire Prevention Coordinator, (406) 329-3409

### **Wildland Fire and Aviation Safety Teams (FAST)**

*Reference the National Interagency Mobilization Guide.*



**Aviation Safety Assistance Team (ASAT)**

*Reference the National Interagency Mobilization Guide.*

**Serious Accident Investigation Teams (SAIT)**

*Reference the National Interagency Mobilization Guide.*

**SPECIALIZED PERSONNEL****Air Resource Advisor**

Technical Specialist - Air Resource Advisors (THSP-ARA), are ordered in IROC as a THSP, document in special needs "Air Resource Advisor". Air Resource Advisors are specialists in smoke management and air quality. An ARA is recommended when an incident has smoke management objectives and smoke is expected to impact communities or sensitive populations for an extended period. For assistance in obtaining the closest available resource contact Jill Webster, [jill.webster@usda.gov](mailto:jill.webster@usda.gov), Office 406-329-3672, Cell 406-361-5380 who will coordinate with the Wildland Fire Air Quality Response Program (WFAQR). If Jill is not available, contact the WFAQR Program lead Pete Lahm, [peter.lahm@usda.gov](mailto:peter.lahm@usda.gov), Office 202-205-1084, Cell 602-432-2614. For further information, see the following direction issued from NIFC:

[https://www.airfire.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/05/ARA\\_Ordering\\_Procedures\\_June18\\_2014.pdf](https://www.airfire.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/05/ARA_Ordering_Procedures_June18_2014.pdf)

**Fallers and Faller Modules****Agency Fallers and Faller Modules**

Agency sawyers are ordered as "O" requests (FAL2, FAL1) Intermediate or Advanced. If a swamper is needed, order an "O" request for a firefighter with a minimum Basic faller endorsement (FAL3).

Agency Faller Modules are ordered as an Overhead Group Request; Module, Faller (module of 2 fallers) and each faller must be qualified as an Advanced Faller (FAL1). An order for a swamper may be filled by an individual with a minimum qualification as an Intermediate Faller (FAL2); however, the lead sawyer must be a fully qualified Advanced Faller (FAL1). All individuals must be fully qualified as firefighters with an arduous fitness rating.

**Competed Agreement Fallers and Faller Modules**

Competed agreement fallers and faller modules are available in the Northern Rockies and are ordered as Overhead Group Requests; Faller, Single or Module. Modules should be ordered without configuration. Dispatch of the modules and fallers will follow the dispatch priority list (DPL) order. The configurations available to order are:

- Professional Single Faller
- Professional Faller Module (2 fallers)

All competitive fallers and faller modules will come with necessary equipment including PPE, two chainsaws per faller, and a 4WD-capable vehicle. For more information, *reference the Northern Rockies Faller Module Solicitation:*

[https://gacc.nifc.gov/nrcc/dispatch/equipment\\_supplies/agree-contract/solicitations.htm](https://gacc.nifc.gov/nrcc/dispatch/equipment_supplies/agree-contract/solicitations.htm)

### Fireline Explosives and Hazard Tree Blasting

Fireline explosives and Blasters with fire qualifications are available throughout the Northern Region of the Forest Service. Dispatch centers should use IROC to determine the closest resources and product availability. Explosives may be ordered with a qualified blasting team for fireline with a minimum of one certified blaster (FLEB) and one crewmember (FLEC). For hazard tree mitigation one certified blaster is required. Fireline blasters are to be red carded FLEB or FLEC. Hazard tree blasters can be ordered as a FLEB or THSP. Those that are not red carded can blast hazard trees on wildland incidents provided they have an escort on the line.

Orders for FLE will be placed through normal dispatch channels attached to overhead. Placing "With Product," in special remarks can expedite acquiring explosives.

Place an overhead order for the blasting team members.

- As a minimum, 1 FLEB and 1 FLEC (Fireline)
- 1 Certified Blaster (Hazard Tree)
- Coordinate with Lead Blaster on type, quantity, and location of product. \*\*

It is recommended to order more than the minimum personnel for guarding and other procedural purposes although local resources or fire personnel can be utilized at the discretion of overhead and the blaster in charge.

The following product is approved for fireline construction.

- **Detagel Continuous Presplit, (watergel) 1¼ inch.** The main supplier is Orica Mountain West Energy Butte, MT and the contact will be Zane Sigafoos, Cell (720) 409-6742, Office (406) 287-3229, Fax (406) 287-3640. Nick Hardman (406) 565-1954.

### Transportation Requirements

- Ground Transportation: Any personnel transporting explosives must have a commercial driver's license with hazard materials endorsement and follow proper DOT regulations. Only two people including the driver may ride in the vehicle hauling explosives.
- Air Transportation: Explosives may be transported by both fixed wing and rotor wing aircraft. This is at the pilot's discretion and airport authorities must give **prior approval** for takeoff and landing of transport aircraft. *Reference NWCG Standards for Aviation Transport of Hazardous Materials, PMS 513 at:*  
<https://www.nwcg.gov/sites/default/files/publications/pms513.pdf>

**Note: Explosives can only be delivered to a person with Blaster Trainee or high certification.**

\*\*Lead Blasters can help in locating qualified personnel and assist in helping locate product. They can also assist in logistics and transport if needed. Feel free to contact AFD lead Isaac Karuzas @ (406) 329-4896, cell (406) 570-8606 or DO phone (406) 370-5877, John Airhart (406) 546-1509, cell (406) 826-4336, or Steve Petesch (208) 267-6755, cell 208-610-3598.

**National Federation of Federal Employees (NFFE) Union Representative – FS Incidents**

Union Officials are to be notified when there are 300 or more Forest Service personnel at an incident. Notify Terri Anderson NFFE Forest Service Council Vice-President for the Northern Region at cell number 406-381-8189 (primary) or office number 406-363-7112 (secondary).

**Northern Rockies Human Resource Specialist (HRSP)**

An HRSP must be established on fires when 300 or more people are assigned to the incident. For incidents with less than 300, Incident Commanders should examine the situation to determine if a Human Resource Specialist is warranted. The role of the HRSP is to provide a point of contact for incident personnel to discuss civil rights and human resource concerns and to advise and assist incident management on proper actions to take to handle inappropriate acts or conditions. **A trainee HRSP will not be dispatched without a fully qualified HRSP at or enroute to the incident.**

Order in IROC as an O# HRSP. Fill with a locally available resource. If none are available locally, or from your center's neighbors, place the request to NRCC. NRCC will place requests using closest available forces from the approved HRSP list provided by the Region 1 HRSP coordinator, Debby Hassel.

The Northern Rockies Human Resource Specialist coordinator is Debby Hassel at 406-329-3141 or cell 406-274-7985. During the core fire season, June 1 through October 1, the HRSP coordinator distributes a priority list to all Northern Rockies dispatch centers listing qualified HRSPs and HRSP trainees along with phone numbers and unit IDs.

**Northern Rockies Incident Medical Specialist Personnel**

Northern Rockies IMS personnel can be dispatched within the Northern Rockies geographic area only, with the exceptions of Region 6 (the Northwest geographic area) and Region 10 (Alaska). These exceptions are allowed under a MOU between the geographic areas.

IMS personnel are dispatched as single resources:

- IMSM – Manager
- IMSA – Assistant Manager
- IMST – Technician

**Note: All Northern Rockies Incident Management Teams have an IMSM (who may also be a MEDL) attached to the team.** Each IMT may have pre-orders established for IMS members and supplies or the orders may be placed from the incident by the MEDL or IMSM. For Type III incidents, orders will be based on need and supplies ordered accordingly.

Resource requests for IMS positions are filled first using closest forces within a dispatch zone, then by placing a resource request via the neighborhood and lastly by placing the request to NRCC. NRCC will place requests to non-neighborhood dispatch zones within the NRGAs or, if necessary, to NICC for other out of region IMS personnel.

Name requests for IMS personnel should be accepted to meet training and experience requirements and to accomplish other objectives established by the IMS program. Name

requests must include a brief statement in the special needs block describing the need for the individual specified.

**Note: Personnel red carded with only EMTB/EMTF (Basic), AEMT/AEMF (Advanced), Paramedic/EMPF or MEDL (Medical Unit Leader) are NOT interchangeable with the IMS positions.** When ordering IMS resources specifically with the fireline (Arduous) qualification, they will be ordered as EMTF with IMS level in special needs (Example: order EMTF with IMST (IMSA) required in special needs).

**Note: The 500 Person First Aid Station Kit (NFES 81835), should be ordered with Northern Rockies IMS personnel.** It is configured to provide a pre-determined set of first aid supplies and is stocked with over-the-counter medications for incidents. The NFES 81835 also has costly components which require specific skills in their use.

### **Fireline qualified AEMF/EMPF/EMTF Competed Agreements**

Competed agreement for these resources is available in the NRGAs and are ordered as “O” requests without configuration. Dispatch of the resources will follow the dispatch priority list (DPL) order.

- 3 Host Centers in MT: MT-BDC, MT-HDC, MT-MDC
- 2 Host Centers in ID: ID-GVC, ID-CDC

Order as:

- AEMF – Advanced Emergency Technician, Fireline
- EMPF – Paramedic, Fireline
- EMTF – Emergency Medical Technician, Fireline

Qualified resources will come with all necessary equipment including PPE, and an off-road capable vehicle that has high clearance and is 4-wheel drive. Vehicle is utilized for transport to and from the fireline, not for patient transport.

For more information, *reference the Northern Rockies Solicitation at:*

[https://gacc.nifc.gov/nrcc/dispatch/equipment\\_supplies/agree-contract/solicitations.htm](https://gacc.nifc.gov/nrcc/dispatch/equipment_supplies/agree-contract/solicitations.htm)

### **Suppression Modules**

The Northern Rockies discourages breaking up organized crews into small groups for suppression use. However, Type 21A crews can be ordered and are structured to be broken into squads for initial attack. If Type 21A crews are not available, suppression modules may also be ordered for this purpose.

Suppression modules will be ordered as an Overhead Group Request; Module, Suppression. The minimum standards for a Suppression Module, *reference the Interagency Standards for Fire and Fire Aviation Operations 2020:*

<https://www.nifc.gov/PUBLICATIONS/redbook/2020/Chapter02.pdf>

In some cases, it may be appropriate to send an engine with the suppression module. Local procedures may require that local sources of engines be exhausted before moving engines

across zone or GAC boundaries. Check with the requesting dispatch before dispatching an engine with the suppression module.

### WFDSS Support Resources

For support needs that cannot be met at the local level, the first point of contact is their Agency Point of Contact (POC) listed below. For federal agencies; if an agency POC is not available, contact one of the other listed federal POCs. If field users cannot reach any POC, they can contact the Wildland Fire Management Research, Development, & Application (WFM RD&A) group, part of the National Fire Decision Support Center (NFDSC), which has also been established for WFDSS support. All requests for assistance should be made to a NRGAs agency POC before contacting the NFDSC.

### Ordering Process

Order WFDSS support as a “THSP” overhead position with the inclusion of host agency only; document in Special Needs “for local agency WFDSS support”.

WFDSS needs that can be supported include software assistance, decision documentation, fire behavior analysis, and role/privilege/ownership assignments. During incidents, other Agency POCs can assign roles.

At Geographic Area Preparedness Levels 4 and 5, the Agency POCs will coordinate workload, i.e. prioritize the assignment of Analyst-assisted Fire Behavior runs (GA Editors will have lists of Fire Behavior Specialists) and assist any Geographic Area MAC Group to summarize and display decision support products. (See Chart on following page).

Please note: An (\*) by the individuals name in the chart indicates that person has a Geographic Editor Role in WFDSS (for assigning roles, privileges, & ownership).

AGENCY	NAME	EMAIL ADDRESS	OFFICE PHONE	CELL PHONE
BIA	Bryce Rogers	<a href="mailto:bryce.rogers@bia.gov">bryce.rogers@bia.gov</a>	406-247-7949	406-696-5055
BIA	Reeve Armstrong*	<a href="mailto:reeve.armstrong@bia.gov">reeve.armstrong@bia.gov</a>	720-484-3203	303-921-2196
BLM	Karly DeMars*	<a href="mailto:kdemars@blm.gov">kdemars@blm.gov</a>	406/538-1991	406/366-2434
FWS	Rich Sterry*	<a href="mailto:richard_sterry@fws.gov">richard_sterry@fws.gov</a>	303-236-8124	720-635-1977
FWS	Kevin Beck	<a href="mailto:kevin_beck@fws.gov">kevin_beck@fws.gov</a>	406-727-7400 x214	406-370-9937
IDL	Scott Hayes*	<a href="mailto:shayes@idl.idaho.gov">shayes@idl.idaho.gov</a>	208-666-8647	507-459-2227
IDL	Andrew Mock	<a href="mailto:amock@idl.idaho.gov">amock@idl.idaho.gov</a>	208-769-1525	
MTDNRC	Mike DeGrosky*	<a href="mailto:mdegrosky@mt.gov">mdegrosky@mt.gov</a>	406-542-4304	406-240-1004
ND FS	Michael Odell	<a href="mailto:Michael.odell@ndsu.edu">Michael.odell@ndsu.edu</a>	701-425-1835	701-425-1835
ND FS	Ryan Melin*	<a href="mailto:Ryan.Melin@ndsu.edu">Ryan.Melin@ndsu.edu</a>	701-328-9985	701-220-1475
NPS	Dan Warthin*	<a href="mailto:dan_warthin@nps.gov">dan_warthin@nps.gov</a>	970-444-8788	
NPS	Windy Bunn*	<a href="mailto:windy_bunn@nps.gov">windy_bunn@nps.gov</a>	928-606-5599	
USFS	Chad Pickering*	<a href="mailto:chad.pickering@usda.gov">chad.pickering@usda.gov</a>	406-329-3232	406-293-0973
USFS	Kristen Sanders	<a href="mailto:kristensanders@usda.gov">kristensanders@usda.gov</a>	406-329-3534	208-559-2129
USFS	Rita Chandler	<a href="mailto:rita.chandler@usda.gov">rita.chandler@usda.gov</a>	406-329-3409	406-370-0000

Table 16: WFDSS Agency Points of Contact

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